



HIGH TOMATO PRICES MAKE VEG THALI DEARER FOR THIRD STRAIGHT MONTH

Preparing a vegetarian thali (meal) at home got dearer by 28% in July compared to June due to high tomato prices, a Crisil report said

NON-VEG THALI RELATIVELY LESS IMPACTED

In contrast, a non-vegetarian thali was relatively less impacted and the price of preparing the meal went up by only 11%, Crisil's 'Roti Rice Rate' report, released on Monday, said. The inflation in the thalis is largely driven by the 233% jump in tomato prices to ₹110 per kg in July from ₹33 in June, said the report. Non-veg thali cost was tempered by a 3-5% decline in broiler chicken prices, it added

PRICEY ONION, POTATO ESCALATE THALI COST

The prices of onion and potato increased 16% and 9% on-month, respectively, contributing further to the increase in cost, the report said. Chilli prices were up 69% in July over June, but as the quantity required in food preparation is lower, the impact on thali preparation was limited. A 2% dip in vegetable oil price softened the increase in cost of both thalis

22%

OF THE RISE IN VEG THALI COST IS DUE TO THE
SPINE INTO TOMATO PRICES, CRISIL REPORT SAID

RS passes Delhi services bill

Legislation cleared with 131 in favour, 102 against it; voting done via paper slips

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

PARLIAMENT on Monday approved the contentious Delhi services bill that sought control over appointments and transfers of bureaucrats, with its passage in the Rajya Sabha by 131-102 after a heated debate.

Voting happened through paper slips as the digital board in the Upper House developed a snag. As expected, BJP and YSRCP members voted with the NDA in favour of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, which replaced the Delhi ordinance, tilting the scales away from the Opposition.

Significantly, the Opposition got less votes than its anticipated 108 while the NDA got more than its expected 128-129.

The Opposition's proposal to send the bill to a parliamentary select committee for vetting was rejected by voice vote. The proposed legislation was earlier passed by the Lok Sabha on August 3 by voice vote.

Union home minister Amit Shah, while replying to the debate, tore into the Opposition's protest against the bill. "The Delhi Service Bill does not violate the Supreme Court order that says the elected govern-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah replies on the NCT (Amendment) Bill debate in RS | P1

ment is the boss in Delhi," he asserted, adding that it was not the BJP but the Congress that has brought it first. "Now the Congress is opposing the bill only to appease the AAP by sitting on its lap," Shah remarked, drawing strong objections from the Opposition.

Earlier, AAP members had alleged that bill would set a precedent of stripping Opposition-ruled states of their legitimate powers. Shah countered it, saying: "This Bill has nothing to do with other states or UTs. It is meant to save the rights of the people in Delhi."

Taking a dig on the AAP, Shah said the party was born after opposing the Congress. "But today they (AAP) are seeking support from the Congress

to oppose the legislation. The moment the bill is passed, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal will take a U-turn," Shah said.

Opposition members put up a strong protest against the bill, terming it an attempt to kill democracy. AAP member Raghav Chadha said the BJP, after losing many elections, including in Delhi, has resorted to the bill, adding leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani had advocated full-fledged statehood to Delhi. Congress leader P Chidambaram slammed the BJP saying that it neither had constitutional nor moral authority to pass the legislation.

Congress member Abhishek Manu Singhvi called it a retrogressive legislation that is completely unconstitutional.

238
TOTAL
STRENGTH OF
RAJYA SABHA

131
VOTES IN
FAVOUR OF
THE BILL

102
VOTES
AGAINST IT

PROBE INTO
NAMES ON
SELECT PANEL

RS Deputy
Chairman
Harivansh
announced a
probe into
complaints of
at least 4 MPs
that their
names were
included in a
proposed
select panel
on the Delhi
services bill
without their
consent



Rahul Gandhi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Parliament House complex | P1

Rahul returns as MP after 4 months

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Lok Sabha Secretariat on Monday revoked the suspension of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, four months after he was disqualified and after the Supreme Court stayed his conviction in a defamation case over Modi surname remarks.

The restoration of Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership was widely welcomed by leaders from Congress and the Opposition bloc INDIA.

Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge said it brought relief to the people of India, and especially to Gandhi's constituency Wayanad in Kerala. "Victory of love against hate," tweeted the official social media handle of

To lead no-trust debate

Back as MP, Rahul is expected to lead the attack against the Modi government in the no-trust motion on Tuesday. The Congress is also keen to have him as key speaker in the debate on the Manipur unrest

the Congress party. Celebrations erupted at AICC headquarters after the Lok Sabha Secretariat issued the notification announcing restoration of the ex-Congress chief's membership.

Although Gandhi attended the proceedings when the House convened at noon, it was soon adjourned after BJP leader Nishikant Dubey raised allegations of Congress's 'unholy nexus' with China.

SC names panel, to oversee CBI's Manipur probe

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday set up a three-member committee comprising former high court judges Gita Mittal, Shalini P Joshi and Asha Menon to oversee the relief and rehabilitation of victims of Manipur violence and said former Maharashtra police chief Dattatray Padsalgikar will monitor the overall probe into criminal cases.

The three-member panel will submit their reports to the SC directly. "This committee will be looking at things apart from the investigation including relief, rehabilitation of relief camps, remedial measure — remit will be a broad based committee — who will be looking into diverse aspects of humanitarian nature," Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said while instructing the judicial committee and Dattatray Padsalgikar to submit separate reports before the court.

The apex court clarified that it has no intention of superseding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)'s ongoing probe but stressed that it will monitor the overall situation in the strife-torn state "to restore people's faith in the rule of law".

Besides Padsalgikar, who will function as an 'additional layer of scrutiny', the SC proposed that five police officers from states outside Manipur be brought to the CBI on deputation to oversee the investigation. It said these officers would function within the CBI's administrative setup and be supervised by a joint director.

Actor Vijay Raghavendra's wife Spandana dies in Bangkok

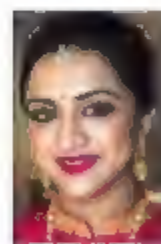
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SPANDANA, the spouse of actor and National Award recipient Vijay Raghavendra, passed away after a sudden cardiac arrest during a family vacation in Bangkok, Thailand. She was 44.

It was reported that she was swiftly taken to a hospital for immediate medical attention, but could not be saved.

Spandana, the daughter of former police officer BK Shivaram, marked her entry into the film industry with a cameo role in Ravichandran's 2017 film, *Apoorva*, and later made her mark as a producer with *Kismet*, a film starring Vijay Raghavendra. Tragically, Spandana passed away just as the couple was to return home and prepare for their 16th wedding anniversary celebrations on August 26. Spandana and Vijay Raghavendra tied the knot in 2007 and have a son, Shourya.

Reports indicated that Spandana's postmortem was completed, and her body is to be brought back to Bengaluru on Tuesday. The final rites are scheduled to be held on Wednesday. P3



Spandana

Don't expect more grants this yr: CM to MLAs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday reportedly told Congress MLAs not to expect more grants for their constituencies this year as the government is focussing more on the implementation of five guarantees.

Siddaramaiah, who began his meetings with MLAs and ministers in-charge of districts to iron out the differences between them over release of grants, also told them to wait for some more time for funds to take up development works in their constituencies.

The CM met the MLAs and district in-charge ministers from Tumakuru, Yadgir, Chitradurga, Bagalkot, Ballari and Dharwad districts.



CM Siddaramaiah holds a meeting with ministers and MLAs in Bengaluru on Monday | EXPRESS

Sources in the Chief Minister's Office said Siddaramaiah listened to the MLAs who raised issues such as delay in releasing funds to implement development projects and lack of coordination between them and ministers in-charge of districts, and promised them that he would take steps to resolve these issues.

Many MLAs sought grants for their constituencies to take up development works. But the CM told them to wait for at least eight months as the government is focussing on the implementation of the five guarantees. He, however, promised them that grants will be released in a phased manner, the sources said. CONTINUED ON: P4

Edtech employee accused of sending rape, death threats

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

SEVERAL allegations have been made against an edtech company after a tweet by a woman accusing its employee of sending death and rape threats to her family went viral.

A Twitter account, under the name of Dr Riya (@Riya_MBBS), posted several screenshots on social media of the alleged messages her family had received from the employee.

In the messages, the employee, going by the name Probuddha Roy, makes several rape threats against the Twitter user's mother. The employee also threatens to track down the family members. "Just because my brother refused to enroll, this

employee from the edtech company has been repeatedly cursing me and abusing my mom, threatening to rape and kill her in such dirty language," the Twitter user said.

She alleged that the employee changed his phone number several times to harass her family following the incident. "In spite of blocking him, he has been harassing and abusing us using different phone numbers and names. We are afraid to go out now. We're still getting numerous calls. In fear, I'm keeping my phone switched off," she said.

Following the tweets, Bengaluru City Police responded asking the Twitter user for more details regarding the issue to file a complaint. CONTINUED ON: P5

BBMP contractors seek President's nod for euthanasia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) yet to make part payment of Rs 675 crore released by the state government towards clearing the bills of Palike contractors, about 500 contractors have written to President Droupadi Murmu seeking her permission for euthanasia.

Revealing this to reporters here on Monday, president of BBMP Contractors' Association KT Manjunath said, "For 2023-24, the Palike collected around Rs 2,000 crore as tax. We request the chief commissioner to inform us about the reason for Palike not clearing the bills for works done by contractors for about 26 months." P2

Five-gen M'luru family registers for India Post scheme

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE great-great-grandmother of this Mangaluru-based family is 103, while her great-great-granddaughter is three.

What brings them together with other members of the five-generation family is — they have all just opened accounts under India Post's Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC).

They made history possibly by

being the only five-generation family in India to open savings accounts at the sub-post office at Kinnigoli near Mangaluru on August 3.

Seetha Poojarthi (103), who resides at Kuppepadavu; her daughter Sundari Poojarthi (72), who lives at Kaikamba; her granddaughter Yamuna Poojarthi (50) of Ullai Bethu; her great-granddaughter Pavithra V Amin (33); and her great-great-granddaughter Dithya V Amin (3) have opened

savings accounts under MSSC aimed at financial empowerment of women.

The staff members of Kinnigoli sub-post office under Mangaluru Postal Division deserve all accolades for this achievement. They not only visited the residences of the senior women, but also brought all of them, living in various parts of the district, to the post office in a car driven by Pavithra's husband Vijay Amin. P2



From left: Seetha Poojarthi, Sundari Poojarthi, Yamuna Poojarthi, Pavithra V Amin and Dithya V Amin | EXPRESS

HC stops Nuh bulldozer justice, wonders if it is ethnic cleansing

HARPREET BAIWA @ Chandigarh

THE Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday took cognisance of bulldozer justice in the riot-torn Nuh by itself and directed the Haryana government to stop it immediately, wondering whether it was an ethnic cleansing exercise in the guise of restoring law and order. The court also directed the government to explain if the building demolitions happened after serving due notice.

Judges G S Sandhawalia and Harpreet Kaur Jeewan said,

"Law and order is being used as a ruse to bring down buildings without following the procedure established by law." It appointed advocate Kshitij Sharma as amicus curae (friend of court) to assist it. The bench sought an affidavit on the number of buildings razed so far. The local authorities said rioters used the demolished buildings to start riots by pelting stones at a VHP procession. After the court order, the demolition drive was stopped. The court's intervention came after four days of demolition in Nuh.

ID check

Law enforcement agencies are doing a verification of identity cards of immigrants in the district after two Rohingyas were arrested. It is suspected that they procured IDs illegally from Assam and Bengal

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